

SITUATION REPORT NO. 59
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: August 7, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.

DAMAGES: The water system for the city of Marion in LaMoure County is being contaminated by flood waters. Recent tests indicated that the water was safe for use. However, the N.D. Department of Health has asked city officials to issue an advisory instructing residents to boil water before use. City officials are considering bringing rural water into the city from the Ransom/Sargent County Rural Water System.

Devils Lake flood waters threatened the lake gauge at Creel Bay, requiring the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to relocate the gauge 20 feet to higher ground. Connections still need to be made by the phone company. No reading has been available for nine days. The last reading, taken on July 30, listed the lake level at Devils Lake at 1,442.95 feet MSL.

Severe thunderstorms in northeastern North Dakota caused extensive damage to private and public property during the August 2-3 weekend. Patients at Griggs County Hospital were temporarily relocated after windows were damaged by hail. The Griggs County Courthouse also sustained hail damage; officials reported that 24 windows were broken during the storm. The county's farmers suffered extensive damages to crops, buildings and equipment during the storm. County agriculture officials estimate that a 75 to 100 percent loss of yield was sustained in 220,000 acres of wheat, barley, sunflowers, edible beans, soybeans and flax. Damage to 20 farm buildings and 50 pieces of equipment totals \$200,000. In Walsh County, the storm produced a tornado and marble-sized hail. The tornado and high winds also uprooted large cottonwood trees on a farmstead. Farmers in the Adams area suffered a 40 to 100 percent crop loss. In Cavalier County, three hopper bins at the city of Alsen toppled during the storm. Businesses in the city of Clyde reported five steel grain bins, one pole building and the grain elevator office sustained more than \$30,000 in damages. One home and one vehicle in the city of Munich received minor damage, and a steel grain storage tank was dented. In Sargent County, hail, rain and gusty winds damaged 33,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, edible beans, sunflowers and oats. Twenty farm buildings with a combined value of \$60,000 were damaged. Weekend storms also caused crop damage to 9,090 acres in Cass County.

Severe weather once again impacted the state on August 5 when several tornadoes and funnel clouds were spotted throughout North Dakota. In Burleigh County, a tornado was spotted 10 miles north of Bismarck, near Baldwin. No damages were reported. The accompanying thunderstorm produced gusty winds of up to 50 miles per hour (mph), one-half inch hail and heavy rain. In Pembina County, a severe thunderstorm produced heavy rain, gusty winds, pea-sized to marble-sized hail throughout most of the county. Near Leroy, weather spotters reported golf-ball-sized hail.

3. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has purchased a doublewide trailer for its day care facility in Grand Forks. UMCOR hopes to provide day care for up to 50 children. UMCOR has also contracted with an architectural company to provide structural assessment of flood-damaged homes. UMCOR and Lutheran Disaster Response are coordinating their disaster relief efforts to best address the needs of disaster survivors.

The North Dakota Disaster Recovery Coordinating Team will meet August 12, 1997, at 1:30 p.m. at Farmers Union in Jamestown.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Secretary of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced that North Dakota communities will receive \$201.3 million in grants from HUD's Development Disaster Recovery Initiative. The Secretary visited Grand Forks on August 6. According to the announcement, the cities targeted for the grants and the approximate amount of funds are as follows: Cass County, \$1.4 million; Fargo, \$5.9 million; City of Grand Forks, nearly \$171.6 million; Grand Forks County, nearly \$2.2 million; Mercer County, \$500,000; Pembina County, \$1 million; Ramsey County/Devils Lake, \$7 million; Richland County/Wahpeton, nearly \$3.5 million; Traill County, \$1 million; Walsh County, \$504,504; and the State of North Dakota, nearly \$6.7 million. HUD officials have said that \$201.3 million in grants includes the previously announced HUD grants of \$50 million to Grand Forks, \$3.5 million to Fargo, and \$1.5 million to North Dakota for other areas of the state.

As of August 6, the last day for North Dakotans to register for individual assistance, a total of 36,494 had reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those eligible applicants, 24,094 have received more than \$49.7 million in Disaster Housing assistance.

The Agriculture Disaster Response Center (ADRC), established to help farmers and ranchers with the effects of the winter storms and spring flooding, has closed. Located at the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) office, the center registered more than 1,850 producers, and took thousands of additional phone calls from rural residents seeking assistance. ADRC personnel advised producers on applying for assistance and on inventorying losses. They also coordinated the statewide effort to collect and dispose of more than 11 million pounds of animal carcasses and to distribute thousands of dollars worth of fenceposts donated by out-of-state fencing manufacturers and dealers. Staff from the North Dakota State University Extension Service, the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service, the N.D. Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Farm Service Agency helped answer the center's phone bank. The NDDA's livestock director was the center coordinator.

The N.D. State Water Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are compiling a hazard mitigation database. This database will include geographic reference points and elevations of structures in the Devils Lake Basin. The State Water Commission has compiled levee data for the Red River of the North and will transfer the information to GIS.

The Individual and Family Grant Program (IFG), administered by the Division of Emergency Management, has approved nearly \$9.6 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,312.

The State/FEMA Crisis Counseling Program will conduct a rural mental health workshop in Grand Forks on August 8-9. Counselors will discuss disaster mental health concepts.

To date, Public Assistance staff have prepared Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) for the 1997 flood for more than \$66.3 million of infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal in the declared

counties.

As of August 6, Job Service North Dakota has paid nearly \$4.2 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). The agency has received 8,259 DUA applications.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved to date more than \$157.2 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 11,088 loan applications, 6,385 of which have been approved. Of the loans, 58 percent were to home owners and renters for real estate and personal property losses, and 42 percent were to business owners for repairs to businesses and for lost income.

The Barnes County Commission has issued an emergency declaration as a result of damages sustained during torrential rainfall that occurred from mid-June to mid-July.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Web site addresses for other flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>
N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/index.html>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director